

THE SPANISH AMERICAN

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Tucumcari, N. M., Sept 6, 10.
Editor, Spanish-American,
Roy, N. M.

Dear Sir:-

I am enclosing an article which I have written dealing with the dry farming in New Mexico. Knowing that you have the interest of the settlers of your community at heart I am going ask you to kindly publish the article in the Spanish-American.

Thanking you for this and past favors I beg to remain,

Very truly yours,

R. S. Trumbull,

Agricultural Agent,

E. P. & S. W.

In their effort to successfully establish agriculture in non-irrigable sections of New Mexico and other parts of the Southwest the settlers are testing various methods of cultivation and cropping. A method that has contributed largely toward putting farming on a paying basis in other localities of limited rainfall, but which has been tried very little here, is the practice of summer fallowing (clean cultivation), for the purpose of storing moisture in the subsoil previous to the planting of the crop.

The reader may recall having seen an article from me in this paper, about the middle of last June, referring to a test piece of winter wheat maturing near Corona, New Mexico, which was sown on summer fallowed land.

At this writing I wish to merely give the results without going in the details involved which appeared in the previous article.

I was on the field when the crop was harvested, June 29th, and learning that it was not apt to be taken care of in such a way that the yield could be ascertained, I gathered the crop from an area 10 by 10 feet carefully selected from a part of the field which I thought would represent quite closely the average of the field. This sample was threshed on July 14th, after quite thoroughly drying from it the following data was obtained.

Weight of grains 3 lbs 12 1/2 oz.
Weight of straw 8 lbs 10 oz.
Yield of grain per acre 27.45 bu.
Yield of straw per acre 3757 lbs.
A record of the precipitation at Corona has been kept since July 1st 1909, about that time the summer fallowing of this field began. The precipitation from that date to the time of harvesting of this wheat (one year) was 13.79 inches. Of this amount, 7.94 inches fell between July 1 and the date of seeding, Sept. 13. The storing of this moisture in the soil before seeding was the factor to which the success of the crop was due; for without it the crop would have had but 5.85 inches of precipitation for its growth and failure would have been inevitable, as verified by other fields where seed was sown in soil not previously moistened to a considerable depth by summer fallowing. The soil in this field was dried out to a depth of nearly eight feet by this wheat crop as shown by borings made with a soil auger, the moisture having penetrated to a greater depth than that, in most of the field, at seeding time.

Several hundred acres of wheat were sown last fall on this mesa. The result was that most of it matured some grain, the best fields yielding 10 to 15 bushels of good quality. None of this wheat was sown on summer fallowed land. At seeding time, however, about the middle of September, while investigating the moisture conditions of the best prepared fields I found, in a field one mile south of Roy, an area about one eighth acre in extent which from accidental causes had become moistened to a depth of 6 feet to 9 feet. The conditions existing on this spot were such as could be expected to obtain in a summer fallowed field at the same date, so I think it is fair to use the results from this area for making a comparison between wheat raised on summer fallow and that raised by the ordinary methods of the farmers in this locality.

On July 4th the wheat was ready to cut. On this favored

area the grain stood 24 to 30 inches high, 6 to 12 inches higher than the rest of the field. I gathered threshed the wheat from a 10 by 10 foot area in the center of this favored spot. The yield was 3 pounds 12 ounces or at the rate of 27.22 bushels per acre. The field was harvested the next day and it has since been threshed, yielding between 9 and 10 bushels per acre.

The statement is often made that the evaporation is so great here as to render futile any attempt at moisture conservation by summer fallowing. This is true on adobe or very tight land and not if the soil is somewhat "open" (sandy). Most of the soil that is being farmed here, however, holds moisture very well, if well tilled, and I have seen it sufficiently demonstrated in different localities (from Carrizozo north) that I am anxious to see summer fallowing given a thorough test by the farmers, especially as preparation for winter wheat.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 12.—A primary election will be held in Washington tomorrow to nominate candidates for the United States senatorship to succeed Samuel H. Piles, candidates for three seats in congress and for the state legislature will also be nominated.

The principal republican candidates for the senatorship are James M. Ashton, of Tacoma and Thomas Burke, of Seattle, regulars, and Miles Poindexter, of Spokane, insurgent.

The democratic candidates are Geo. E. Cotterill of Seattle and Patrick S. Byrne of Spokane.

DEMOCRATS ARE CONFIDENT OF MAJORITY

(Special to the Spanish American)
Phoenix, Ariz., Sept. 12.—An election is in progress throughout Arizona today to choose delegates to the convention which will frame a constitution for the new state. The convention will meet within sixty days and will consist of fifty-two delegates. The Democrats are confident they will have a majority of the delegates. By advocating the initiative and referendum they expect to have the support of the prohibition and labor elements.

Big Four Train Goes Into the Ditch Near Indianapolis

TWO KILLED AND A NUMBER SEVERELY INJURED

(Special to the Spanish American)
Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 12.—Two persons were killed, and two severely injured, and a dozen others slightly hurt, near Brightwood, a suburb of this city, this morning in a wreck of the Big Four passenger train from Louisville, carrying Kentucky National Guards men to Fort Harrison.

The wreck was caused by an open switch, the passenger train crashing into a special standing on the siding.

PRESIDENT ATTENDS FUNERAL OF SOLICITOR GENERAL BOWERS AT BOSTON

(Special to the Spanish American)
Boston, Mass., Sept. 12.—President Taft came to Boston today to attend the funeral of Solicitor General Lloyd W. Bowers. He returned to Beverly immediately after the services.

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